

Message Text

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ORIGIN L-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 DOE-15 ACDA-12 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-05 INR-10 NSAE-00 NASA-01 SOE-02 SS-15
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INR/STA:DPALMER
EUR/SOV:ABROWN
EUR/CAN:CCLEMENT
T:DAKATCHER
NSC:BHUBERMAN
NASA:NTERRILL
DOE:TDILLON (SUBS)
DOD:SBUCKLEY (SUBS)
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TO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (PARA 2 OMISSIONS LINES 5 AND 6)

E.O. 11652:XGDS1

TAGS: TSPA, UN, CAN, UR

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SUBJECT:NUCLEAR POWER SOURCES ON SATELLITES

REF: LONDON 8687

1. AS REPORTED REFTTEL, PARA 5, IN COURSE OF US-SOVIET
BILATERALS IN PREPARATION FOR NEXT SESSION OF UN OUTER
SPACE COMMITTEE (JUNE 26-JULY 7), NUCLEAR POWER SOURCES

ISSUE DISCUSSED. SOVIETS SET FORTH SCENARIO DESCRIBED IN REFTTEL, CLAIMING THAT THIS APPROACH HAD SOME SUPPORT FROM CANADA.

2. WE WISH TO APPRISE OTTAWA OF SALIENT POINTS ON THIS ISSUE MADE IN COURSE OF BILATERALS, DETERMINE IF CANADA INDEED SUPPORTS SOVIET APPROACH, AND OTHERWISE ASCERTAIN GOC THINKING ON ISSUE AT THIS STAGE. IN VIEW OF FACT THAT GOC ORIGINALLY INFORMALLY SUGGESTED TRILATERAL DISCUSSION OF SUBJECT, EMBASSY OFFICER SHOULD MAKE CLEAR TO GOC THAT DISCUSSIONS WITH SOVIETS COVERED BROAD RANGE OF ISSUES OF MUTUAL CONCERN; THAT NUCLEAR POWER SOURCES WAS BUT ONE OF THESE, AND THAT WE LOOK FORWARD TO FURTHER DISCUSSIONS WITH CANADA ON OSC TOPICS IN NEW YORK.

3. EMBOFF SHOULD DRAW UPON THE FOLLOWING TALKING POINTS:

A. IN COURSE OF BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS WITH SOVIETS ON BROAD RANGE OF OUTER SPACE MATTERS, SOVIETS DISCUSSED THEIR APPROACH TO HANDLING OF NUCLEAR POWER SOURCES ISSUE IN FORTHCOMING MEETING OF UN OUTER SPACE COMMITTEE.

B. WE WISH TO SHARE THE SALIENT POINTS OF THIS DISCUSSION WITH CANADA BUT STRESS THAT WE DO THIS ON A HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL BASIS. WE HAVE INFORMED ONLY THE UK OF THESE TALKS AND HAVE ASKED THEM, AS WE ASK YOU, TO MAINTAIN CONFIDENTIAL

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C. THE SOVIET APPROACH AT THIS STAGE FAVORS ESTABLISHING A WORKING GROUP IN THE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL SUBCOMMITTEE, BUT WITH A GENERAL MANDATE WHICH DOES NOT SPECIFICALLY REFER TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF "SAFETY STANDARDS." THE SOVIETS WOULD LIKE TO KEEP THE SUBJECT OF NUCLEAR POWER SOURCES OUT OF THE LEGAL SUBCOMMITTEE. A GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION WOULD APPEAL TO STATES TO FURNISH RELEVANT INFORMATION ON NUCLEAR POWER SOURCES WHEN SATELLITES ARE LAUNCHED AND IF THEY ENCOUNTER DISTRESS. THE SOVIETS WOULD EXPECT TO FURNISH SUCH INFORMATION ON A STRICTLY VOLUNTARY BASIS. NO MORATORIUM IS TO BE REQUESTED.

D. THE SOVIETS ADVISED US THAT THIS SCENARIO WAS EITHER BASED UPON DISCUSSIONS WITH THE GOC OR HAD A DEGREE OF CANADIAN SUPPORT. - --

E. THE UNITED STATES DID NOT COMMENT DEFINITELY ON THE SOVIET APPROACH. AS GOC IS AWARE, UNITED STATES FAVORS THE DEVELOPMENT OF SAFETY STANDARDS FOR NUCLEAR POWER SOURCES ON SATELLITES. TO ASSIST US IN EVALUATING WHAT

THE SOVIETS TOLD US WE WOULD APPRECIATE KNOWING WHETHER THE SOVIET APPROACH WAS DEVELOPED IN CONSULTATION WITH THE GOC AND WHAT IS THE GOC VIEW ON THE SPECIFICS: I.E. NO LEGAL SUBCOMMITTEE REFERRAL OR MULTILATERAL LEGAL INSTRUMENT, NO MORATORIUM, ETC. WE WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE ANY FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE ELEMENTS OF THE PRESENT GOC APPROACH. ALSO, IS THE GOC IN A POSITION TO ADVISE US AS TO THE PLANS OF OTHER STATES, ESPECIALLY SWEDEN AND JAPAN?

F. THE USG WILL BE HAPPY TO KEEP THE GOC ADVISED AS WE DEVELOP OUR OWN POSITION. VANCE

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